

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended)      A method for increasing the wear-resistance of a work piece, comprising connecting the work piece to a core material that cannot be reshaped and which is of a greater hardness than the work-piece material in a form-fitting manner by means of cold-extrusion or hot-extrusion of the work-piece material, wherein the core material comprises ceramic material and has additional shaped elements provided on a peripheral surface of the core material for securing the core material against torsion in the work piece after connecting the work piece to the core material.

6. (currently amended)      Method according to claim 5, characterised in that the additional shaped elements ~~are constituted by~~ comprise a knurling that is provided on an outer peripheral surface of the core material.

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

- 9. (canceled)
- 10. (canceled)
- 11. (canceled)
- 12. (canceled)
- 13. (canceled)
- 14. (canceled)
- 15. (canceled)

16. (new) Method according to claim 5, characterised in that the ceramic material is selected from the group consisting of oxide ceramics, silicon nitrides, silicon carbides, dispersion ceramic materials, ceramic silicate materials and mixtures of titanium carbide and aluminum oxide.

17. (new) Method according to claim 16, characterised in that the ceramic material contains at least one admixed material selected from the group consisting of magnesium oxide, calcium oxide, yttrium oxide and grain growth inhibitors.

18. (new) Method according to claim 16, characterised in that the ceramic material is an oxide ceramic selected from the group consisting of aluminum oxide, zirconium oxide, magnesium oxide and mixtures of aluminum oxide and zirconium oxide.

19. (new) Method according to claim 16, characterized in that the ceramic material is a silicon nitride selected from the group consisting of sintered silicon nitride, hot pressed silicon nitride, and gas pressure sintered silicon nitride.

20. (new) Method according to claim 16, characterised in that the ceramic material is a silicon carbide selected from the group consisting of densely sintered silicon carbide and silicon-infiltrated silicon carbide.